

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

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DRAFTED BY IO/HR:WEHEWITT:BKM

APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SHUM

SUBJECT: DELAY IN RECEIPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNICATION

REF: GENEVA A-270

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED GENEVA'S A-270 DATED NOVEMBER 12, 1976 WHICH TRANSMITTED A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION ALLEGING SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN PUERTO RICO. DEPT NOTES THAT THE COMMUNICATION IS DATED JUNE 10, 1976 AND IS STAMPED AS HAVING BEEN RECEIVED BY THE UN ON JUNE 22. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT FORWARDED TO THE USG FOR COMMENT UNTIL OCTOBER 29, 1976.

2. UNDER EXISTING PROCEDURES, COMMUNICATIONS ALLEGING SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE REFERRED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR COMMENT SO THAT WHEN THE COMMUNICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THE ALLEGATIONS MAY BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH SUCH GOVERNMENTAL EXPLANATIONS AS MAY HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED. PURSUANT TO THESE PROCEDURES, THE COMMUNICATION IN QUESTION WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 7. BECAUSE OF THE DELAY IN RECEIPT OF SUBJECT COMMUNICATION, THE USG MAY FIND THE SHORT TIME PERIOD REMAINING TO BE A SIGNIFICANT

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HANDICAP IN ALLOWING FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ADEQUATE
REPLY.

3. MISSION SHOULD REQUEST OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS
DIVISION AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT WE ASSUME TO BE THE
UNUSUAL DELAY IN FORWARDING THE SUBJECT COMMUNICATION TO
THE GENEVA MISSION PURSUANT TO ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.
YOU SHOULD NOTE OUR CONCERN THAT, WHEN GOVERNMENTS ARE
THE OBJECTS OF CHARGES IN PARTICULAR COMMUNICATIONS,
CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO FORWARD THESE COMMUNICATIONS TO
GOVERNMENTS TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE PREPARATION
OF REPLIES. MISSION SHOULD EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT IN THE
FUTURE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE FORWARDED BY THE HUMAN
RIGHTS DIVISION MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO US MISSION GENEVA.

4. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS OF APPROACH. ROBINSON

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